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Museum Instructor. The failure to announce a series of talks for High School teachers also opens the way for any group of teachers or individual teacher to ask for the kind of talk that will meet particular needs rather than to attend a set course.

### THE ANONYMOUS PROTEST AGAINST THE MUSEUM'S EX- HIBITION OF IMPRESSION- IST AND POST-IMPRES- SIONIST PAINTINGS

SHORTLY before the close of this special exhibition, which has continued according to the original agreement from May 3 to September 15, an anonymous printed protest against it was given wide circulation through the mails and in the public press. It is stated to come from "A Committee of Citizens and Supporters of the Museum." Its concluding paragraph reads, "We refrain from signing this protest only because we wish to doubly emphasize our discontent, and also to escape the charge of merely seeking notoriety."

The Museum welcomes helpful criticism from citizens and supporters. Had the authors of this protest intended to be helpful to the Museum, we should have supposed that they would have made it directly to the Museum authorities at the opening instead of at the closing of the exhibition, and that they would have appended their names so that the Museum could judge of the weight which should be accorded to it. But the officers of the Museum welcome the protest even though it comes at the close of the exhibition, though it is unsigned, and is addressed not to them but to their fellow-citizens. They welcome it because of the opportunity afforded of reiterating their explanation of the circumstances in which this special exhibition was given and of the Museum's purpose in holding it. It was undertaken, as is stated in the introduction of the Museum catalogue, in response to a request from a group of art lovers, members of the Museum, who unlike the authors of the protest were not anonymous. They were Mrs. Harry Payne Bingham, Miss Lizzie P. Bliss, Arthur B. Davies, Paul Dougherty, Mrs. Eugene Meyer, Jr., John

Quinn, and Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney. These "art lovers" felt that "the educational value of such an exhibition would be greater if held in our Museum where the modern works could be easily compared with examples of art of well-recognized excellence shown in the nearby galleries." The Museum gladly granted their request, and our fellow-citizens are under great obligation to them for the assistance they have given to the Museum in making this exhibition so complete. In responding to this request, the Museum was perfectly aware of the fact that these impressionist and post-impressionist paintings have evoked "excessive admiration and excessive detestation." In exhibiting them the Museum has passed no judgment upon them either of admiration or detestation. It has provided and intended to provide an opportunity for the public to see the best examples of these schools which could be assembled in New York, in order that our visitors could not only compare the post-impressionist paintings with the impressionist paintings but could also compare both with the examples of art of well-recognized excellence shown in our adjacent galleries.

The Museum knows no partisanship in art nor does it promote any particular school of art, ancient or modern. It seeks to give to the public the opportunity of seeing every kind of art, from everywhere, which any considerable number of people esteem or admire, quite regardless of the particular taste of its officers and trustees. Whether the present exhibition has produced "excessive admiration or excessive detestation" is quite aside from the purpose of the Museum in holding it. It is, however, interesting to note that whereas this anonymous protest urges "that all persons having at heart the welfare of our community and civilization write to the authorities of the Metropolitan Museum expressing their disapproval of the present exhibition" only ten letters expressing disapproval have reached the Museum up to the date of publishing this BULLETIN, out of a membership of over seven thousand, and out of a body of citizens, to which this protest was addressed, of many millions.